

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS USBERLIN 1023

FOR OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT; USIA FOR IPS/USINFO; FRANKFURT
FOR PUGH

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TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFLLER, NELSON A.)

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BERLIN: OFFICIAL TEXT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS
DELIVERED AT U.S. MISSION HEADQUARTERS, BERLIN, MAY 14:

2. MR. AMBASSADOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE AMERICAN
COMMUNISTY IN BERLIN:

3. BELIEVE ME, THIS IS A THRILL FOR HAPPY AND MYSELF TO
BE WITH YOU ON THIS OCCASION. WE FLEW OVER WITH THE
DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR OF GERMAN TO THE UNITED STATES,
WHO IS HERE WITH US. WE ARE GREATLY HONORED BY HIS PRESENCE
ON THIS OCCASION, HIS JOINING THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HERE.

4. AND I MUST SAY IT'S A GREAT THRILL TO SEE SO MANY
WONDERFUL PEOPLE DEVOTED TO THOSE BASIC VALUES, IN THIS
BICENTENNIAL YEAR WHICH WE CELEBRATE, WHICH HAVE MADE
THIS COUNTRY WHAT IT IS TODAY. AND THE DETERMINATION
IN THE WORLD TO KEEP IT THAT WAY IS SYMBOLIZED BY YOUR
PRESENCE HERE IN BERLIN AND THE DEDICATION WITH WHICH YOU
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HAVE GIVEN OF YOURSELVES TO PRESERVE THIS VITALITY. NO

CITY IN EUROPE PRESENTS MORE VITAL INTERESTS TO OUR NATION AND TO ALL FREE NATIONS. YOUR PRESENCE HERE IN THE SERVICE OF OUR GOVERNMENT OR OF THE VARIOUS FIRMS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH YOU REPRESENT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE ESTEEM YOU ENJOY.

5. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE COME TO GERMANY PRIMARILY TO JOIN OUR GERMAN ALLIES IN A FESTIVE CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL. HERE IN BERLIN, THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THE GERMAN PEOPLE ARE SHARING IN OUR BICENTENNIAL TO AN EXTENT UNPARALLELED IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. THIS OUTPOURING OF FRIENDSHIP, AFFECTION AND MUTUAL RESPECT IS A MARVELOUS EXPRESSION OF THE INCREASINGLY STRONG BOND BETWEEN OUR NATIONS. WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND TO THE GERMAN PEOPLE. BECAUSE OF THESE CLOSE TIES, PRESIDENT FORD ASKED ME TO COMBINE A VISIT TO BERLIN WITH MY TRIP TO FRANKFURT FOR THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. THERE IS NO MORE CONVINCING PROOF OF THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS SHARED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC THAN OUR SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER STAND IN BERLIN. YOU SHIELD A FREE SOCIETY FROM EXTERNAL THREAT.

6. BERLINERS THEMSELVES HAVE COINED THE TERM "PROTECTING POWERS" TO DESCRIBE THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN, BRITISH AND FRENCH GARRISONS IN THIS CITY. I CAN THINK OF NO PROUDER TITLE FOR THE DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM TO BEAR. I NEED NOT TELL YOU THAT THE PROTECTION OF BERLIN IS INSEPARABLE ULTIMATELY FROM THE PROTECTION OF OUR NATION'S LIBERTIES, AS WELL. DEFENSE OF AMERICAN FREEDOM BEGINS, NOT AT OUR ATLANTIC OR PACIFIC COASTS, BUT HERE IN BERLIN. YOU ARE PROTECTING NOT ONLY THE INTEGRITY OF AN ISOLATED CITY, BUT THE PERPETUATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC IDEA. YOU ARE PROVING THAT DEMOCRACY CAN NOT ONLY LIVE WITH CONSTANT CHALLENGE BUT CAN FLOURISH AS LONG AS WE REMAIN STRONG AND STEADFAST. COMMITMENT TO BERLIN IN THE FACE OF CONTINUING CHALLENGE IS A TEST OF OUR COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM. I KNOW OF NO MORE IMPORTANT TASK THAN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE IN THE WAY YOU AMERICAN BERLINERS ARE DOING. TOGETHER WITH OTHER BERLINERS AND OUR BRITISH AND FRENCH ALLIES, YOU ARE A VALIANT ISLAND OF HUMAN VITALITY AND FREEDOM--AN INSPIRATION TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. IN AN IMPORTANT WAY,

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THAT IS WHAT OUR OWN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IS ALL ABOUT.

7. IN CALLING ATTENTION TO THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE, WE ARE NOT ONLY RECALLING THE COURAGE OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM LONG AGO, WE ARE ALSO REDEDICATING OURSELVES TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH INSPIRED AMERICA'S REVOLUTION. THE AMERICAN ROLE IN BERLIN DURING THE PAST THIRTY YEARS HAS FORMED ONE OF THE PROUDEST CHAPTERS OF

THIS DEMOCRATIC HERITAGE. YOU ARE TO BE ADMIRER FOR CARRYING ON THIS TRADITION. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU AND THEY ARE INDEED FORTUNATE TO BE SO WELL REPRESENTED IN THIS IMPORTANT CITY.

8. AND IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS PERSONAL APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING, AND TO SAY HOW DEEPLY HAPPY AND I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING HERE; AND I HAVE TO ADD ONE OTHER THOUGHT, AND THAT IS, ONE CAN'T BE HERE AS WE ARE TODAY AND SEE SO MANY WONDERFUL YOUNG PEOPLE WITHOUT RECOGNIZING TWO THINGS: ONE, OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS TRUSTEES OF THEIR FUTURE AND THEIR FUTURE OPPORTUNITY; AND SECONDLY, THE FEELING THAT WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE PROUD OF WHAT FREEDOM DOES, OF WHAT RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY AND THE OPPORTUNITY ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY CAN PRODUCE IN THE WAY OF WONDERFUL, STRONG, ATTRACTIVE, BRIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE. AND IT'S THEIR FUTURE WE ARE HERE TO DEFEND, AND IT'S THEIR FUTURE THAT WE ARE PROTECTING SO THAT THEY CAN ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITIES, THE PRIVILEGES WHICH WE HAVE ENJOYED OF LIVING IN A FREE SOCIETY.

9. LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, THANKS FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING FOR ALL OF US. I AM THRILLED TO BE WITH YOU, SO IS HAPPY, AND BEST OF LUCK IN THIS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION YEAR. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.
GEORGE

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